

HOUSE RESOLUTION 343

By Harwell

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend His Excellency Marc Ravalomanana, President of Madagascar.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause in its deliberations to pay tribute to those exceptional individuals who, through their dedication, courage, and faith, have their time and talents to perpetuate the public good; and

WHEREAS, the President of Madagascar, His Excellency Marc Ravalomanana, is most assuredly one such distinguished person who is deserving of special commendation; and

WHEREAS, from the village of Imerikasinina, His Excellency grew up in a family of eight children; and

WHEREAS, an inspiring example of a self-made man, His Excellency Marc Ravalomanana turned a small yogurt processing unit run by his family into the most successful agro-business in Madagascar, the TIKO Company, which now operates under the name, the TIKO Group; His Excellency chaired the company until recently; and

WHEREAS, His Excellency entered politics in 1999 as a candidate for Mayor of Antananarivo, the capital city of Madagascar; he won by a large margin and became immensely popular with the city's residents due to his successful improvements with the city's hygiene and sanitation; and

WHEREAS, a man of action with practical experience, His Excellency Marc Ravalomanana is known for his vitality and willingness to quickly move forward; and

WHEREAS, His Excellency Marc Ravalomanana officially took office as the President of the Malagasy Republic on May 6, 2002, and since that fateful day he has worked diligently to help Madagascar reach its full potential; and

WHEREAS, full of pride for his country, His Excellency remains strongly attached to the land and environment of the Malagasy Republic; he is a tireless promoter of the "Made in

Madagascar” label and staunchly advocates Malagasy culture and language at every opportunity; and

WHEREAS, throughout his illustrious presidency, His Excellency Marc Ravalomanana has striven to meet the challenges he set for Madagascar, including building new infrastructures and roads, instituting good governance and public accountability, establishing an efficient administration that fully serves the people, providing education for all, controlling the spread of AIDS and the HIV virus, and increasing support to the private sector for economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, renowned for his integrity and for his dedication to justice and equality, His Excellency Marc Ravalomanana is a source of inspiration to the citizens of his country; and

WHEREAS, His Excellency is a well-learned man and a world traveler; in addition to his native language of Malagasy, which he uses in many of his speeches, he is also fluent in French and English; and

WHEREAS, a man of deep, spiritual faith, His Excellency Marc Ravalomanana is a devout Protestant and a supporter of the Franklin, Tennessee based World Christian Broadcasting, which is building a radio tower in Madagascar; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, His Excellency Marc Ravalomanana is most appreciative of the love and support he receives from his wife, Lalao Rakotonirainy, his daughter, and his three sons; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life, His Excellency has been firmly committed to representing the best interests of his country, and his diplomacy and far-reaching abilities as a leader should serve as a benchmark for national leaders and other officials worldwide; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend His Excellency Marc Ravalomanana for his meritorious service to the people of Madagascar and beyond and applaud his endless pursuit of excellence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.